

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2702

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

February 19, 2016

An act relating to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2702, as introduced, Atkins. Climate change.

The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The state board is required to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020 and to adopt rules and regulations in an open public process to achieve the maximum, technologically feasible, and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Existing law establishes the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, which is administered by the Office of Planning and Research, to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as specified. Existing law requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to update the state's climate adaptation strategy to identify vulnerabilities to climate change.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would continue the work with local governments, state agencies, and others to meet the goals set forth in Governor Brown's Under 2 MOU, which brings together subnational governments willing to commit to either reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases 80% to 95% below

1990 levels by 2050 or achieving a per capita annual emissions target of less than 2 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) California has been a leader on climate change for more
4 than a decade through the enactment of landmark legislation such
5 as the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division
6 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety
7 Code) and the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015
8 (Chapter 547 of the Statutes of 2015) and through policies and
9 practices that allow for Californians to be innovators and early
10 adapters for new technologies like those related to renewable
11 energy and clean fuels.

12 (2) In May of 2015, Governor Brown, along with leaders from
13 11 other states and provinces from seven countries, entered into
14 the “Under 2 MOU” committing the signatories to either reducing
15 the emissions of greenhouse gases 80 to 95 percent below 1990
16 levels by 2050 or achieving a per capita annual emissions target
17 of less than 2 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050.

18 (3) As of January of 2016, a total of 127 jurisdictions
19 representing 27 countries and 6 continents have signed or endorsed
20 the Under 2 MOU.

21 (4) In December of 2015, 195 counties from around the globe
22 adopted the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework
23 Convention on Climate Change (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1) at
24 the United Nations Climate Conference (COP21) in Paris, France,
25 signaling a commitment to limit the effects of climate change and
26 further reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

27 (5) California’s leadership and vision on climate change helped
28 open the door to the historic Paris Agreement.

29 (6) The achievements made in COP21, the Under 2 MOU, and
30 recent legislative efforts in California are by no means the end in
31 the state’s effort to combat climate change. In California, we know
32 the serious damage climate change can cause to everything from
33 our supply of food and clean water to the health of the forests and

1 from neighborhood public safety to our national security. We need
2 to continue to work together to create and implement innovative
3 policies that move us forward in our efforts to address the impacts
4 of climate change.

5 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that
6 would continue the work with local governments, state agencies,
7 and others to meet the goals set forth in Governor Brown's Under
8 2 MOU, which brings together subnational governments willing
9 to commit to either reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases
10 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 or achieving a per
11 capita annual emissions target of less than 2 metric tons of carbon
12 dioxide equivalent by 2050.